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## TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

### House Membership

### Representative Joe Pickett



### Biographical Information

Joe C. Pickett is a Legislator, member of the Texas House of Representatives, where he is serving his fifth term. This is the third consecutive session that he has been appointed to the powerful House Appropriations Committee where he is chairing one of the subcommittees, General Government, which oversees the budgets of 41 agencies, including the Texas Department of Transportation, Parks & Wildlife, and the governor's office. He also has been appointed to be the Chair of Budget Oversight (CBO) for the Committee on Land and Resource Management which has jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to public lands. As CBO, he will serve as liaison between the two committees during the budget writing process. Representative Pickett has also been honored again with a membership on the House Research Organization Committee. This committee reports on all legislation which is scheduled for floor debate. The reports are a balanced analysis and include the pros and cons of each bill. He is also a member of the Mexican American Legislative Caucus.

Mr. Pickett is a former chair and continues to serve as a member of El Paso's region transportation policy board of the Metropolitan Planning Organization. Mr. Pickett was also appointed to the Governor's Anti-Crime Commission which issued its recommendations in December 2002.

Previously, he was a member of the Committee on Transportation and continues to work closely with the Texas Department of Transportation. He was also Vice-Chair of the Committee on Juvenile Justice and Family Issues and has served on the committees of Criminal Jurisprudence, which he worked on legislation related to stalking, DWI and Penal Code revisions; and on Licensing and Administrative Procedures.

Representative Pickett started his political career as a City Council member for the City of El Paso, Texas. During his time on City Council, he

was appointed to serve on the Central Appraisal District Board for El Paso County and the Pension Board for the City of El Paso.

Mr. Pickett holds a Texas Real Estate Broker's license and has been a real estate educator for more than two decades. He has written his own text book for continuing education classes and still teaches one or two days a month, schedule permitting. In his tenure in the real estate field, he has been a member of the local Board of Realtors in which he served on the legislative and educational committees.

His civic involvement includes membership on the boards of the Advocacy Center for the Children of El Paso and the Texas YMCA's Policy Council. He was also an appointee to the City of El Paso's Charter Ad hoc Committee. He is a member of the Lions Club for the past 17 years, a former member of the El Paso Crime Stoppers Board, and served five years as a volunteer board member, then Chairman of a local credit union. The main thrust of his civic involvement for the past few years has been the forming of a 501-C3 non-profit organization that fights graffiti, supervises troubled youth who are required to serve community service hours and enhancing the aesthetics of the community through tree planting, cleaning and building renovation projects. The association was awarded a national honor by the "Keep America Beautiful" organization. It also has been awarded a grant from the Office of the Governor's Juvenile Justice Department for work in the community.

His love of cars has earned him the reputation of being somewhat of a car collector. He has several antique and unusual vehicles that include a varied selection, one-of-a-kind's such as John Wayne's hunting vehicle that he used in his ranch in Arizona, a double decker English bus that belonged to a famous Southwestern artist named Ted DeGrazia, and two working fire trucks that are used for children's charities and parades. His most recent additions to his collection were two running trolleys straight off of the Las Vegas Strip.

Representative Pickett is married to Denise. They have four children, three girls and a boy. Joe and Denise have both volunteered their time with the local YMCA and are both past Y Board Members and active participants in various Y programs.